

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 03756 211909Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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R 211445Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8815
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USNATO BRUSSELS 2176
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 3756

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU
SUBJECT: FURTHER PRESS REACTION TO BITSIOS-CAGLAYANGIL TALKS

REF: ATHENS 3722

1. SUMMARY: CONTINUED NEGATIVE REACTION TO PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL'S LE MONDE INTERVIEW (BEING REPORTED SEPTEL) WAS COUNTERED TO SOME EXTENT BY PRESS REPORTS HERE MAY 21 OF REMARKS BY BOTH GREEK AND TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTERS AFTER THEIR ROME MEETING. BITSIOS UPON HIS RETURN TO GREECE REFERRED TO THE "GOOD SPIRIT" PREVAILING DURING TALKS WHILE CAGLAYANGIL IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "HE IS CONVINCED THE TWO MINISTERS MADE A GOOD START." END SUMMARY.

2. FM BITSIOS UPON HIS RETURN TO ATHENS LATE EVENING MAY 20, WHERE HE WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY TURKISH AMBASSADOR GURUN AND MFA OFFICIALS, TOLD NEWSMEN THAT ROME MEETING WAS A FIRST CONTACT, "AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON BURNING SUBJECTS." BITSIOS SAID THAT THESE ISSUES REQUIRE FURTHER STUDY WHICH WOULD BE THE

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 03756 211909Z

TASK OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES OF EXPERTS AND OF FURTHER MEETINGS

IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE ARE POINTS OF APPROACH
BETWEEN THE VIEWS OF THE TWO SIDES. "IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO SAY
THIS," HE ADDED.

3. QUERIED AS TO WHETHER THE ROME MEETING WAS A FAILURE,
BITSIOS REPLIED THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF SUCCESS OR
FAILURE SINCE IT WAS A FIRST CONTACT AND APPROACH TO THE
QUESTION OF ORGANIZING THE WORK WHICH HAS TO BE DONE ON
COMPLEX ISSUES. THESE ARE NOT EXCLUSIVELY POLITICAL, HE
ADDED, BUT MANY ARE ESSENTIALLY LEGAL MATTERS. AS A RESULT
THE MOST PRACTICAL APPROACH WAS TO ORGANIZE FURTHER MEETINGS AND
GIVE EACH SIDE TIME TO STUDY THE ISSUES FIRST. IN CONCLUSION
THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID "A GOOD SPIRIT PREVAILED IN ROME,
WHICH PERMITTED US TO WORK FOR THREE DAYS AND TO ISSUE A JOINT
STATEMENT."

4. PRESS ALSO REPORTED POSITIVE REMARKS OF CAGLAYANGIL
FOLLOWING ROME TALKS. TURKISH FOREIGN MINSTER IS QUOTED AS
SAYING THAT TALKS WERE "SINCERE, REALISTIC AND CORDIAL" AND HAD
TAKEN PLACE WITH PURPOSE OF DEFINING ISSUES WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF
A PROJECTED "SUMMIT" MEETING. HOWEVER, GREATER PROMINENCE WAS GIVEN
BY PRESS TO DEMIREL INTERVIEW STORY (REFTEL) WHICH CONTINUES
TO RECEIVE VERY NEGATIVE TREATMENT.

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